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Nantwich Urban District.

REPORT




OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

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NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

Report of Medical Officer of Health, FOR THE YEAR 1904.

Medical Officer of Health :—DR. J. D. MUNRO.

Population at Census, 1901 :—7,722.

Estimated Population, middle of 1904 :—7,812.

Area in acres :—703.

Birth-rate per 1,000 living :—28.

Death-rate per 1,000 living :—15·1.

Death-rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases :—1·02.

Deaths under one year to 1,000 births :—100.

During 1904 the *Births registered* numbered 219. In first quarter 57, in second 68, in third 43, in fourth 51.

The number of *Deaths registered* was 116. Eleven deaths in Workhouse Female Hospital (Urban District) were persons not belonging to the District, and thirteen deaths in the Male Hospital (Rural District) belonged to this District. Therefore, the actual number of deaths belonging to the District was 118. In the first quarter there were 38 deaths, in second 31, in third 27, and in fourth 22.

Infant Mortality—Twenty-two of the deaths were infants under one year old, viz: 3 Diarrhœa, 2 Whooping Cough, 2 Pneumonia, 4 Marasmus, 3 Infantile Debility, 2 Convulsions, 1 Premature Birth, 1 Tonsilitis, 1 Cleft Palate, 1 Spina Bifida, 1 Meningitis, and 1 accidentally Suffocated.

Zymotic Diseases—Fifteen cases were notified, viz:—1 Diphtheria, 4 Scarlet Fever, and 10 Erysipelas.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases numbered 8, viz:—2 Whooping Cough and 6 Diarrhœa.

The Zymotic death-rate was 1.02 per 1,000.

No cases were sent to the Crewe Isolation Hospital during the year.

Smallpox Hospital has been kept aired and in readiness for use. No case has been sent from this District during the year.

Scarlet Fever—Four cases were notified. No deaths. The cases were of a mild type, and strict precautions as to isolation and disinfection prevented any spread of the disease.

Diphtheria—One case was reported, which was most probably contracted outside the District.

Diphtheria Antitoxin was supplied free to one case.

Erysipelas—Ten cases were reported. No deaths.

Isolation Hospital--The Local Government Board sanctioned the loan of money for the Isolation Hospital Buildings after the enquiry held in December, 1903. Contracts were entered into, and the buildings are now in progress, and expected to be ready for occupation during 1905.

Whooping Cough was prevalent during the first and second quarters of the year. Two infants died from the disease.

Measles—Isolated cases occurred. No deaths.

Diarrhoea caused six deaths in the third quarter, three of which were infants under one year old.

Lung Diseases—*Phthisis* was the cause of death in ten cases, equal to a death-rate of 1·2 per 1,000. *Bronchitis or Pneumonia* caused sixteen deaths, giving a death-rate of 2·03 per 1,000.

Heart Disease was the cause of death in eighteen cases, which gives a death-rate of 2·3 per 1,000.

Inquests—Twelve were held during the year.

- 1—Woman, 77 years, verdict, “pulmonary congestion, following fractured arm.”
- 2—Man, 43 years, verdict, “killed by being run over by a train.”
- 3—Boy, 2 years, verdict, “shock from burns.”
- 4—Infant, 16 weeks, verdict, “natural causes.”
- 5—Woman, 29 years, verdict, “died from blood clot on the brain.”
- 6—Man, 79 years, verdict, “drowned in the river.”
- 7—Man, 39 years, verdict, “fractured skull from a fall.”
- 8—Boy, 5 years, verdict, “natural causes.”
- 9—Woman, 59 years, verdict, “natural causes.”
- 10—Man, 44 years, verdict, “drowned in the river.”
- 11—Infant, 6 months, verdict, “suffocated in bed.”
- 12—Woman, 39 years, verdict, “laudanum poisoning.”

New Property—Twenty-nine new houses have been completed during the year. Sixteen are in course of erection.

Houses Demolished—Six during the year.

Improved Closet Accommodation—Twenty-five midden closets have been replaced by fourteen W.C.'s and eleven pails.

Sewage Disposal—Mr. Baldwin Latham has been retained to advise the Council as to Sewage Disposal. He has submitted a scheme, which involves the acquisition of additional land, and is now under consideration.

Sewers—Numerous stoppages have been dealt with, and the construction of the sewers has been found to be very defective in many places when they have been opened.

A report by the Surveyor on the sewers and drains in the town is required.

Registered Lodging Houses—Five in the District. They have been regularly visited and found to be clean and orderly. No infectious disease or over-crowding has been discovered in them.

Slaughter Houses number fifteen. They have been regularly inspected and found in a cleanly state.

Dairies and Cowsheds number eleven. These have been inspected frequently and found satisfactory.

Factories—There are six clothing factories and four shoe factories in the district. The sanitary arrangements at all of these are satisfactory.

Water Supply—The joint water scheme was further considered in the early part of the year, but as the Council failed to obtain the Liverpool water at a lower price than that at which it had previously been offered (ninepence per thousand gallons), the scheme was abandoned as being too costly.

Mr. Baldwin Latham was retained as consulting engineer, to advise as to another mode of supply.

He has submitted two schemes, both of which have been considered, namely :

- 1—A scheme for the enlargement of the storage area at Baddiley, and increased main capacity from the Water Works to the town.
- 2—An alternative scheme for obtaining water from the Checkley district.

The latter was strongly recommended by the consulting engineer, but up to the present time the Council have not acquired a suitable site.

Baddiley Water Works—The long continued spell of dry weather in the summer severely taxed the resources of the Baddiley Water Works. The increased use of water for sanitary purposes had a marked effect on the pressure of water in the town, which at times is very defective, and numerous complaints have been received to that affect.

The Filter Beds at Baddiley are working satisfactorily.

Canal Boats—The Inspector has examined 64 boats, and four were reported as being defective.

The Baths and Wash-houses Act has been adopted during the year.

J. D. MUNRO.

3RD FEBRUARY, 1905.

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